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### DROUGHT, HEAVY RAINS REDUCE HARVEST YIELDS

DROUGHT WIDESPREAD IN HEILUNGKIANG -- Tung-pei Jih-pao, 6 Aug 49

Manchuria's northernmost province is experiencing its worst drought in 20 years, with nearly 30 of its 41 hsien and banners being affected. Even with immediate copious and widespread rains, crops will be reduced by 30 to 40 percent. The authorities are taking vigorous measures to combat this calamity. A meeting of 1,300 cadre members was held on 2 August to mobilize forces. Officials, cadres, students, and teachers are being sent out to guide the people in drawing water for the fields, planting supplementary crops, and reducing water consumption through the adoption of an austerity program.

DROUGHT MENACES SUNGLIANG -- Tung-pei Jih-pao, 18 Aug 49

Sungkiang -- Crops in the province of Sungkiang are not expected to yield as much as 50 percent of a normal harvest due to the lack of any soaking rain since the beginning of the summer. The streams and ponds are dry and the fields are withered. Directives have been sent to all districts warning them of approaching famine conditions and recommending drastic measures to be taken to alleviate the anticipated suffering.

FARMERS PRAY TO RAIN GOD -- Tung-pei, Jih-pao, 8 Aug 49

The area around Ning-an in Sungkiang Province has been suffering from drought. Barefoot farmers wearing wreaths, carrying flags, beating drums and cymbals, carried the dragon (the traditional water diety) to the temple where they burned incense and prayed for rain. This sort of practice wastes energy and money and hinders production.

SOVIET TROOPS GET BEST POTATOES -- Jeh-min Jih-pao, 5 Aug 49

Due to excessive rains in the Lu-shun--Ta-lien area, peasants have begun to dig up their potatoes, many of which are found to be rotten. On 30 July Peasant Li, in Ying-ch'eng-tzu, found that more than 1,000 catties had rotted.

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Peasant Han found that 1,500 catties of potatoes out of 2,600 catties had rotted. Of the remaining good ones, 400 were reserved for the Soviet troops and the rest for planting. He cleaned the partially rotted potatoes and put them in a vat to soften for flour. Hsiao-shin-chai Village planted 120 mou [one mou is one-sixth of an acre] of potatoes, of which a portion rotted. On 2 August the whole village dug up 40 mou. Each villager picked out the largest potatoes to repay the Soviet troops. On that day 230 families transported the newly dug potatoes to the village center for the Soviet troops. By nightfall they had brought in more than 7,000 catties.

The local government has sent out a directive proposing: (1) In harvesting potatoes, first dig up those in the wet ground, then those in the dry. Put the wet potatoes apart to dry in the shade, not in the sunshine, lest they rot. As far as possible, make the partially rotted ones into flour for eating. (2) In selecting seed potatoes, choose those with white skins for next year's planting. (3) Hasten to return seed potatoes to Soviet troops. It is hoped that full repayment will be made by 15 August.

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